Final Cut Pro 1.2 FAQ

The Basics

Q. What is Final Cut Pro?

A. Final Cut Pro software is a breakthrough in digital video editing, compositing, and effects. For the first time, it makes true, end-to-end professional digital video affordable and easy to use. The software combines a comprehensive selection of tools in one highly productive program, turning a Power Mac G4 or PowerBook G3 computer into a desktop movie studio.

Final Cut Pro supports the DV standard as well as all QuickTime formats, including M-JPEG and web-ready streaming video. And because it works with FireWire input/output technology, it provides plug-and-play capabilities with most digital video cameras. It also works with qualified third-party video capture cards and devices.

Q. Why is Final Cut Pro the best tool for working with DV video?

A. Final Cut Pro is the first complete editing, compositing, and effects software designed from the ground up for the new DV standard. It combines Apple's legendary ease of use with the quality and convenience of DV and FireWire.

Right out of the box, Final Cut Pro offers the easiest way to transfer DV video to your hard disk from most DV sources; edit, composite, and add effects to the video and audio; and play the results. It allows plug-and-play DV as well as support for all other QuickTime formats. It supports unique DV features such as nonsquare pixels and audio/video interleaving. And it can simultaneously output a project to your computer screen at the full frame rate; to your DV camera or tape deck; and to your NTSC or PAL TV monitor in broadcast quality.

Q. Who should buy Final Cut Pro?

A. Final Cut Pro meets the needs of all people wanting to create great Desktop Movies, including the professional film and video community, independent video producers, web and multimedia authors (CD/DVD-ROM), and corporate and educational video producers. It has an advanced feature set that professionals will love, so it's ideal for current users of Avid Media Composer or other professional video tools. Yet it's also easy enough for novice video producers who have experience with other professional tools such as Macromedia Director or Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop, or QuarkXPress, making it an excellent product for those who are just discovering the video medium.

Q. How does Final Cut Pro fit in with Apple's other DV-capable products?

A. Apple already leads the industry in providing the computers and software used to edit and manipulate video. Apple's objective is to make Desktop Movies an affordable, easy means of communication, just as we did for desktop publishing with Macintosh systems, LaserWriter printers, and 32-bit color.

Final Cut Pro is part of Apple's strategy to reinvent digital video. It utilizes Apple's QuickTime and FireWire technologies in conjunction with the Mac OS and Macintosh hardware to provide plug-and-play desktop video. Together, these revolutionary products and standards-based technologies make high-quality video creation within reach of a much wider audience.

Version 1.2

Q. What's new in Final Cut Pro 1.2?

A. Version 1.2 offers even greater value and performance. The faster performance in this release means quick rendering. On a Power Mac G3, Final Cut Pro 1.2 delivers two times the rendering performance of version 1.0. If you have a Power Mac G4 system, you'll see even higher performance—up to three times as fast as Final Cut Pro 1.0 on a Power Macintosh G3. A Power Mac G4 will also give you bigger, clearer playback windows than ever, because the DV codec in Final Cut Pro 1.2 is optimized for the PowerPC G4 processor's Velocity Engine.

Other enhancements in version 1.2 include:

- Enhanced web distribution
- New audio reverb filters
- Batch rendering of sequences
- Easier viewing of edit decision lists
- Support for "JKL" keyboard commands so that you can use the keyboard to control the direction and speed of playback while capturing and editing, and to set in and out points
- The ability to import Macromedia Flash-formatted files
- Expanded support for third-party Adobe After Effects plug-ins
- PAL support
- Enhanced simultaneous playback on a monitor (NTSC or PAL) in broadcast quality and a computer display at the full frame rate
- A complimentary suite of valuable software that enhances the post-production features of Final Cut Pro

Q. Does Final Cut Pro work with Mac OS 9?

A. Yes—and there are some great reasons to use them together. The Multiple Users feature in Mac OS 9 lets you save different Final Cut Pro preferences for different users in a production studio, or for different environments, such as working with an analog video card versus digital formats.

Features and Capabilities

Q. What exactly does Final Cut Pro allow me to do with video?

A. With Final Cut Pro, you can capture video from DV or analog video sources and edit it with sophisticated, time-saving editing tools such as three-point editing, match frame, and multitrack trimming. You can create a sequence with a virtually unlimited number of video layers using text, graphics, Adobe Photoshop files (with layers maintained), and additional elements. Each layer can be still, or animated along a user-defined path using tools such as Bézier curves with acceleration control. You can apply time-varying filter effects, such as blur, to any layer, and mix and synchronize multiple audio tracks—up to 99 tracks per sequence. Then you can output your results for TV, videotape, QuickTime movies, or the World Wide Web.

Q. What are the key features of Final Cut Pro?

A. Key features of Final Cut Pro include the following:

- Comprehensive professional tools. Final Cut Pro offers the most widely used features of other professional editing, compositing, and effects programs in one product—plus much, much more.
- Plug-and-play digital video. Apple creates all the components necessary for DV production except the camera, incorporating all the new DV video and audio standards. (DV cameras are available through the Apple Store at www.apple.com/store and from many video retailers.)
- Enhanced workflow and productivity. All work in the program is done through four multifunction windows. Powerful media management capabilities enable you to organize your media assets in the most productive way.
- Outstanding support for QuickTime technology. Final Cut Pro takes advantage of the high performance and enhanced features of QuickTime, the most robust open standard for video acquisition, creation, and distribution. You can view large video windows with smooth, stutter-free, full-frame-rate playback for precise editing; watch and listen to guaranteed audio/video synchronization when using appropriate codecs; and export to all other QuickTime formats, including web-ready streaming video.
- Superior flexibility. Efficient access to all features means you can edit, render, and add effects in a minimum number of steps. The user interface controls allow you to use your choice of drag-and-drop functions, pull-down menus, keystrokes, or contextual menus.
- High performance. Final Cut Pro streamlines the production process with high-speed previews and rendering and the ability to print to tape without making a movie file.

For more detailed information, please see the Final Cut Pro data sheet, which is available at www.apple.com/finalcutpro.

Q. Is Final Cut Pro easy to use?

A. Final Cut Pro sets a new standard for ease of use in professional video creation. It's easy for the novice video producer who has worked with other tools such as Adobe Photoshop or QuarkXPress, and for anyone who has worked with other video editing tools such as Avid Media Composer. However, Final Cut Pro is not designed for casual home video users.

Q. Does Final Cut Pro compete with Adobe Premiere or Avid's products?

A. Final Cut Pro is in a class all by itself. It combines the quality of DV, the versatility of QuickTime media formats, advanced professional features, and Apple's legendary ease of use to create a comprehensive, plug-and-play, low-cost video creation package. Final Cut Pro therefore meets certain customer needs that are not addressed by Adobe Premiere and Avid products.

Apple's goal has been to offer a Macintosh-based solution for every level of video producer. In addition to Final Cut Pro for professionals and experienced amateurs, we now offer our iMovie software for first-time moviemakers on some Apple systems.

Q. Does Final Cut Pro support real-time effects?

A. We plan to add real-time effects to Final Cut Pro in the future. This will be done in such a way that Final Cut Pro customers can easily upgrade their current software. Visit www.apple.com/finalcutpro for the latest information.

Q. Is Final Cut Pro limited to DV video?

A. No. Final Cut Pro works with all QuickTime video formats: M-JPEG, uncompressed ITU-R 601 resolution, Sorenson, Cinepak, and many more.

Q. Can I use Final Cut Pro with an analog video source?

A. Yes, by all means. There are three options for using Final Cut Pro with an analog video source:

- Use a DV camcorder or tape deck that has analog inputs. The camera will convert the incoming analog video to DV format digital video and send it to and from the computer using FireWire.
- Use a DV converter. This external box converts analog signals to DV and vice versa. DV is then sent to and from the computer using FireWire.
- Use a third-party video-digitizing card to connect a composite or component analog source directly to the computer.

Q. Where can I find out about analog capture cards and other devices that Final Cut Pro supports?

A. Please visit the input/output section of the Final Cut Pro website at www.apple.com/finalcutpro/techspecs/io.html to see lists of:

- DV-supported came3ras, decks, and sources
- Supported device protocols
- Final Cut Pro-qualified video capture interfaces

Facts and Figures

Q. How much does Final Cut Pro 1.2 cost?

A. The estimated retail price for Final Cut Pro is US$999.

Q. I already have Final Cut Pro. How do I get the version 1.2 update?

A. You can download the update, including the complimentary third-party software, from the Final Cut Pro website at www.apple.com/finalcutpro, or you can order a CD for $19.95 ($29.95 in Canada). See the website for CD ordering information, or call 800-293-6617 in the United States or 888-295-0653 in Canada.

Q. When will Final Cut Pro 1.2 be available for purchase?

A. Final Cut Pro 1.2 is now available for purchase worldwide. Localized versions are available in French, German, and Japanese.

Q. Where can I buy Final Cut Pro 1.2?

A. Final Cut Pro is available wherever Apple hardware products are sold, including authorized Apple resellers, the Apple Store (store.apple.com), and through direct sales to education and business customers.

Q. What are the system requirements for Final Cut Pro 1.2?

A. Final Cut Pro 1.2 can run on any of the following systems:

- Power Mac G4, 266-MHz or faster Power Macintosh G3 (300 MHz required for DV), or 300-MHz or faster Macintosh PowerBook G3 Series computer
- Mac OS 8.6 or later
- 128MB of RAM
- 6GB hard disk (one or more separate Ultra2 LVD SCSI media drives recommended)
- One of the following video capture systems (optional):

— A DV digital video source connected to a computer with a FireWire (IEEE 1394; Sony i.LINK) port, either built in or provided by an Apple FireWire Kit

— An analog video source and a Final Cut Pro-qualified video capture card or device (see www.apple.com/finalcutpro/techspecs/io.html for the latest list of qualified cards and devices)

— For Macintosh PowerBook G3 Series computers: a Newer Technology FireWire 2 Go card

Q. Is any other software included with Final Cut Pro?

A. Yes, Final Cut Pro 1.2 comes with a number of valuable Apple and third-party products for enhancing your video productions:

- QuickTime Pro from Apple
- CINEMA 4D GO from Maxon Computer, which allows you to create 3D objects and environments
- Commotion DV from Puffin Designs, which lets you paint and add special effects to your video*
- Media Cleaner EZ 4 for QuickTime from Terran Interactive, which allows you to optimize video for various forms of distribution
- EDL Access from Focal Point Systems

*FX feature set not included with Commotion DV.

Q. Does Apple provide technical support for Final Cut Pro?

A. Yes. Apple offers a variety of support options for Final Cut Pro, including Apple's standard 90 days of free support for simple setup issues. For more extensive issues and problems, Apple offers a full range of professional support options, including pay-per-incident plans and annual support contracts at a variety of prices. See www.info.apple.com/support for more information.

Q. Where can I find the most current information on Final Cut Pro?

A. For the latest information, please visit www.apple.com/finalcutpro.

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